India towards food subsidy during the last 6 years:—

Year	(Rs. in crore)
1986-87	2,000·00
1987-88	2,000·00
1988-89	2,200·00
1989-90	2,476·00 including sugar
1990-91	2,450·00 including sugar
1991-92	2,850·00

(c) During the current financial year, a provision of Rs. 2,500.00 crores has been made in the Budget Estimates for providing subsidy to the F.C.I.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for abolition of the food subsidy. The quantum of subsidy depends on the level of procurement, issue prices, quantum of supplies under various schemes and the level of buffer stocks etc.

Procurement and issue prices of commodities handled by F.C.I.

1673. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the differences between procurement prices and issue prices of various commodities handled by the Food Corporation of India during the past three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that issue prices by Food Corporation of India are too high;

(c) whether Government are considering to reduce this difference and if so, to what extent; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) While the minimum support prices (MSP) of paddy and wheat are uniform throughout the country, the procurement prices of levy-rice differ from State to State. The Central issue prices (CIP) of rice and wheat are also uniform throughout the country. The MSP of paddy, procurement prices of levy-rice (Punjab and Haryana which are the highest) and the MSP of wheat for the past three kharif/rabi seasons are compared with the CIP (ex-FCI godown) of rice and wheat in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 30).

The retail issue price of levy sugar is fixed taking into account the all-India average ex-factory levy sugar prices, excise duty, the Central cess and the normative distribution cost. The All India Average ex-factory levy sugar prices and retail issue prices of levy sugar and retail issue prices of levy sugar for the past three years are as under:—

(Rs. per Quintal)

Sugar Year	All India Average Ex-factory prices	Date from which issue prices effective	Retail issue prices (Rs. per Kg.)
1988-89	436·09	1-1-89	5·25
1989-90	494·16	Do.	Do.
1990-91	523·23	24-7-91 (Evening)	6·10
1991-92	579·88	21-1-92	6·90

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Central issue prices of foodgrains are fixed below the economic cost of procured foodgrains, so as to distribute foodgrains at a reasonable prices through the public Distribution System, poverty alleviation Programmes etc.

Loss of Foodgrains in transit

1674. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of foodgrains is lost in transit in different parts of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that transit losses are the highest in North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce loss of foodgrains in transit in the country as a whole and in North-Eastern States in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Region-wise percentages of transit losses in respect of rice and wheat for the year 1990-91 are given at Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The transit losses of foodgrains are generally highest in North Eastern Zone inclusive of Assam Region, although transit losses during 1990-91 for wheat were highest under the territorial jurisdiction of Joint Manager (Port Operations), Calcutta. One of the main reasons for high transit losses in that area is the requirement of transshipment of grains from Broad Gauge Wagons to Meter Gauge Wagons.

(d) Steps being taken by the Food Corporation of India to contain the transit losses are enumerated in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Region wise percentages of Transit Losses in respect of Rice and Wheat for the year 1990-91

Regions	1990-91	
	Rice %age	Wheat % age
1 2	3	4
1. Jammu and Kashmir	2·56	2·02
2. Punjab	0·18	0·09
3. Haryana	0·01	0·14
4. Uttar Pradesh	1·42	1·04
5. Delhi	1·11	0·77
6. Rajasthan	0·97	1·06
7. Himachal Pradesh	0·09	0·02
8. Andhra Pradesh	0·57	1·60
9. Tamilnadu	2·37	2·11
10. Karnataka	1·77	1·45
11. Kerala	1·39	1·21